

**Auburn University**  
Syllabus

1. Title: EDMD 7300 - Research in Instructional Technology  
 Credit: 3 Semester Hours  
 Prerequisite: None  
 Instructor: Dr. Sara Wolf  
 4066 Haley Center  
 Tel: 844-3082 Fax: 844-3072  
 Email: wolfsa1@auburn.edu  
 Office hours: by appointment

2. Date Syllabus Prepared: May, 2003

3. Text: Readings as Assigned

4. Course Description:

A forum for sharing research perspectives, exploring the processes involved in defining research problems and analyzing research theories, problems, and methods in instructional technology.

5. Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Improve understanding of the processes of research
- Explore the varied forms of disciplined inquiry used in the instructional technology field
- Trace how research interests evolve via disciplined inquiry
- Synthesize how existing research and theory influence researchers' perspectives.
- Plan means for evaluating the effectiveness of an instructional design for specific learning outcomes
- Explore, in-depth, the research and theory relevant to an area of personal interest

6. Course Content:

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Week 1 (May 22)	Introduction to Course	
Week 2 (May 29)	Library Research Resources (meet in bibliographic instruction room @ RBD Library)	
Week 3 (June 5)	Research in Educational Technology	

Week 4 (June 12)	Online Discussion	Critique 1
Week 5 (June 19)	Research questions & methodologies; Discussion of critiques	
Week 6 (June 26)	Critique of outlines; revising outlines	Outline (1 <sup>st</sup> ); Critique 2
Week 7 (July 3)	TBA	Critique 3 & 4
Week 8 (July 10)	Proposal Work	Outline (Final)
Week 9 (July 17)	Proposal Work	
Week 10 (July 24)	Proposal Presentations	Research Proposals

7. Course Requirements:

Students are expected to:

- a) Discuss assigned readings in class. Readings will be assigned periodically and discussed at the beginning of class.
- b) Complete critiques of four (4) research articles. The criteria for critiquing articles will be modeled in class. The first article will be provided by the instructor. The remaining articles will be selected by the student. Students will be expected to present critiques to the class.
- c) Develop an outline of a research topic of interest to the student (maximum of three pages max).  
This outline will include:
  - Research question (or questions)
  - Subjects and setting
  - Description of independent and dependent variables
  - Description of how variables are operationalized
  - Materials
  - Design of study
  - Procedure (how will it be done???)
- d) Develop a research proposal based on the outline developed for (c). In addition to the information above (that's the method section), the proposal should include:
  - A review of pertinent literature
  - A rationale for the study
  - Your hypothesis (or hypotheses)
  - Anticipated results (literature-supported)

8. Grading & Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on completion of the critiques, outline, research proposal, and class participation.

<i>Article Critiques</i>		55 points
Critique 1	10	
Critique 2	15	
Critique 3	15	
Critique 4	15	
 <i>Outline of Method</i>		 20 points
Research Question	5	
Subjects/setting	3	
Variables	5	
Materials	2	
Design	2	
Procedure	3	
 <i>Research Proposal</i>		 70 points
Literature Review	20	
Rationale	5	
Methodology	15	
Hypothesis	15	
Anticipated Results	15	
 <i>Class/Group Participation</i>		 15 points

The final grade for the course will be based on a ratio of the points earned to the students to the points offered during the semester.

		<hr/> The following grading scale will be used: <hr/>	
Research Proposal	70 pts	90-100% (144 pts)	A
Method Outline	20 pts	80-89.9% (128 pts)	B
Article Critiques	55 pts	70-79.9% (112 pts)	C
Discussion Participation	15 pts	60-69.9% (96 pts)	D
<i>Total:</i>	<i>160 pts</i>	Below 60% (<96 pts)	F

Any assignment presented or turned in late will be penalized 10% for each class period that it is late. Late assignments presented or turned in late after two class meetings will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

## 9. Class Policy Statement:

**Special notes:** It is the student's responsibility to maintain backup copies of disks and assignments and to complete the work in the time available. Students are strongly encouraged to make regular time in their schedules for the completion of computer based projects. Typically more time is needed than is available in the class meeting schedule for the successful completion of these projects. The instructor may request to see a student's disk and assignments at any time during the semester in order to assess progress. Students should contact the instructor regularly during class, office hours or via e-mail for assistance. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period noted. In cases where assignments are emailed to instructors, they are due *prior to the beginning* of the class indicated on the schedule.

**Technology:** This course is heavily supported through the use of WebCT, a Web-based tool for material delivery and communication. Each student automatically has access to the course site through the registration process. It is the student's responsibility to access the site ([http://webct3.auburn.edu:8900/SCRIPT/8179/scripts/serve\\_home.pl](http://webct3.auburn.edu:8900/SCRIPT/8179/scripts/serve_home.pl)) on a regular basis to check email, announcements, and to access handouts or other information for the class. Additionally, students are encouraged to make use of the chat room feature for conferencing needed in order to collaborate on project work. Students are expected to try to solve their own technological problems through trouble shooting and contacting Auburn University Help Desk personnel prior to contacting the instructor. When communicating with help desk personnel, please record the name of the person helping you, the time that you called, and the difficulty you were reporting. If the instructor needs to follow up on any issues, this information will be helpful in tracking down the correct solution.

Helpful information for students:

**OIT Help Desk Webpage:** <http://www.auburn.edu/helpdesk/>

**WebCT Information:** <http://www.auburn.edu/helpdesk/webct/student.html>

**Password update information:**

<https://austudy.duc.auburn.edu/cgi-bin/ndcgi.exe/gid/pgLogon>

**AUInstall (software available to students at Auburn):** <http://www.auburn.edu/oit/aunet/>

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance policy is as specified on pages 83 and 84 of the 1999 – 2000 Tiger Cub Student Handbook ([http://www.auburn.edu/student\\_info/tiger\\_cub/index.html](http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/tiger_cub/index.html)). You are responsible for keeping up with your work and what is going on in class. If you are absent, late or leave early, you are still responsible for deadlines on exercises and exams. Students are responsible for initiating arrangement for missed work due to excused absences.

**Make-up quizzes and exams:** Make-ups will be given only for University approved excuses as outlined in the Tiger Cub ([http://www.auburn.edu/student\\_info/tiger\\_cub/index.html](http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/tiger_cub/index.html)). Arrangements to take a make-up quiz or an exam must be made in advance. Students who miss a quiz or an exam because of illness need a doctor's statement of verification of sickness and should

clear the absence with the instructor the day they return to class. Other unavoidable absences from campus must be documented and cleared with the instructor in advance.

**Academic Misconduct:** All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. The University Academic Honesty Code will be followed in the event of academic misconduct. Acts of dishonesty in any work will result in the letter grade of F for all parties involved. See Tiger Cub Student Handbook ([http://www.auburn.edu/student\\_info/tiger\\_cub/index.html](http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/tiger_cub/index.html)) for more specific information.

**Accommodations:** It is the policy of the University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and desire accommodations to complete course requirements, you may request disability accommodations. Please contact the Students With Disabilities Office (844-2096). After initial arrangements are made with that office, contact your professor.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule and content of this syllabus in order to accommodate the needs of the students and/or in light of university and academic schedule changes.